

FALL LAWCARE 101

These strategies are key to preserving your organic lawn so it is ready to come back strong next spring.



AERATE & OVERSEED

After a season of heavy use and mowing, the soil in your lawn is compact. This makes it hard for your yard to breathe and for new grass seed to take hold. Not only does aeration help reduce soil compaction, but it allows water to reach the root zone and benefits the microorganisms in the soil. These organisms break down existing thatch, improve soil quality and release additional nutrients for healthy turf development. By removing cores of turf and soil and then overseeding, the seeds have more seed-to-soil contact and have a better chance of taking hold and germinating next spring to give you a lush, healthy lawn.



CONTINUE TO WATER

Just because the leaves are turning doesn't mean it's time to put the sprinkler away. This is one of the most common mistakes made by homeowners, they stop watering their lawns far too soon. Your turf is still very much alive and needs to be fed, fall lawn care is effective when combined with a consistent lawn watering program. For most clients in New England, we suggest watering until the ground begins to freeze, this is usually the end of October to Mid-November.



TOP-DRESSING WITH ORGANIC COMPOST

By early fall, your lawn is starved of nutrients. Typically, lawns are stressed from increased use and summer sun; by putting down organic compost, you are giving your turf immediate valuable nutrients and introducing microbes that help loosen thatch, ease stress and supply. We broadcast a thin layer of organic compost top dressing over your existing lawn which supplies valuable nutrients. Typically, we apply between ¼ inch of compost throughout our clients lawns.



APPLY ORGANIC FERTILIZER

Fall is the absolute most important time to feed your lawn before the winter season rolls in. Not only does fertilizer provide long-lasting nutrients throughout the winter months, but it also supplies a boost for the spring regrowth season. At Pure Solutions, we use an organic fertilizer with slow releasing, consistent nitrogen that allows for an earlier "green up" of your lawn. Unlike a conventional fertilizer program that is dependent on water, organic fertilizers break down with active soil biology.



MOWING BEST PRACTICES

Typically, we like to see lawns at 3 to 3-1/2 inches of height after it is mowed. As turfgrass growth slows, you can continue to mow your lawn regularly. Because the growth rate slows, you can in turn lower your cutting height so that you are only removing 25-35% of the blade of the grass. Continue this strategy until your grass is about 2-1/2 inches tall and then continue to mow at that height until the grass stops growing. Keeping your lawn with a shorter height for winter will help in preventing snow mold.



APPLY LIMESTONE

New England's forestry promotes acidic soil. Because of this, it is important to make sure pine needles are removed from your property. Pine needles are very acidic which can lower your soil pH and make it harder for your turf stands to uptake the nutrients it needs to make it through winter.



Why Lime?

Lime can be applied until the ground freezes. The benefits of Lime are:

1. IMPROVES SOIL CHEMISTRY

Turfgrass grows best in soil with a pH of 6.5 – 6.8. If your soil is too acidic lime can help lower the acidity and promote a healthier environment for your turf to thrive.

2. ENCOURAGES BIOLOGY

Both microbial and earthworm activity is affected by pH. Microbes and earthworms are essential to grass growth. They are natural aerators and feed your turf as well. If your pH is off they will struggle and in turn, so will your lawn.

3. IMPROVES SOIL STRUCTURE

Improving soil structure with lime allows water to penetrate the soil and turf to absorb substances such as phosphorus.



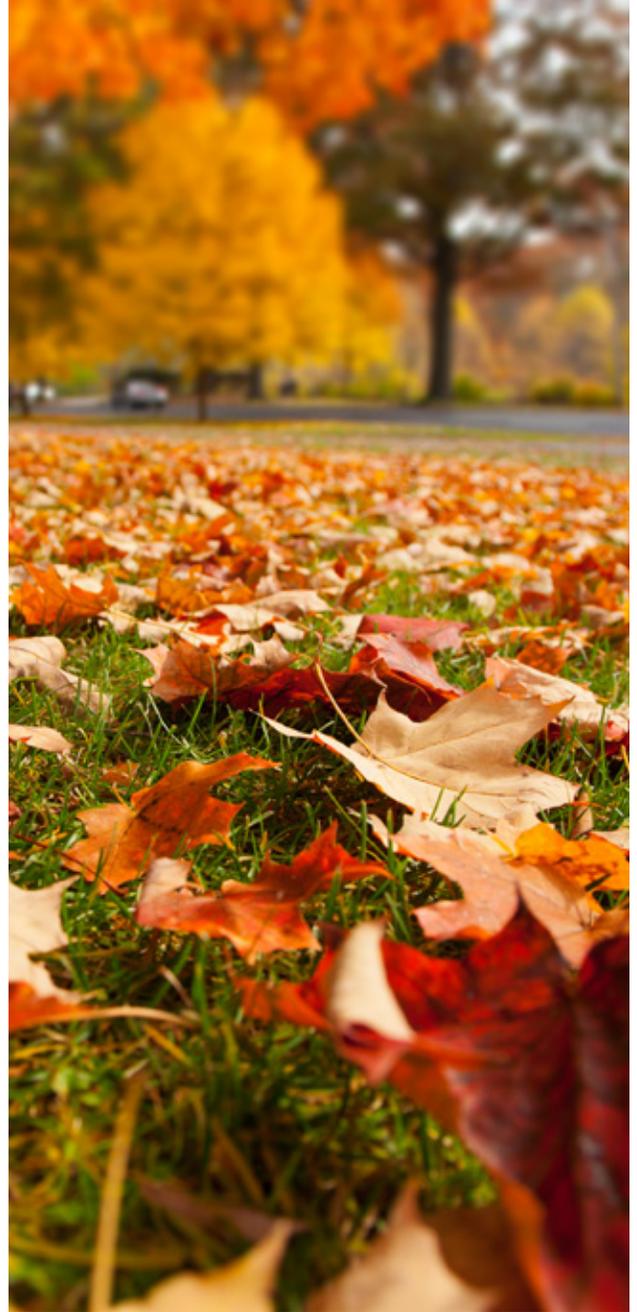
REMOVE TREE DEBRIS

Common pests such as ticks, mosquitoes, and spiders love to take cover in and around fallen leaves, and tree branches. The first step to natural pest control on your property is removing debris from your lawn and creating a clean and clear delineation between the surrounding woods-line and lawn. Ticks and other pests have a hard time surviving the winter in a well-maintained turf stand and will naturally make their way to the edge of the property to seek out protection from the elements.



REMOVE LEAF LITTER

Remember your lawn is a living, breathing thing. When the leaves drop in the fall they can start to suffocate your lawn. Heavy leaf cover will make it hard for sunlight to get to your lawn, and without sunlight, grass can't go through the photosynthesis cycle to produce the chlorophyll it needs to stay green and healthy. Heavy leaf cover can also produce mold and other diseases which can affect the health of your lawn, especially in the spring if left under snow cover. However, a small number of leaves can be a great food source when properly mulched back into your lawn.



Our organic lawn care service and products will help get your lawn off of the harsh, toxic chemicals found in traditional lawn care. Making your property safer for you, your family and the environment. We also provide all natural tick and mosquito control, keeping your yard pest free throughout the year.

[Learn more at \[puresolutions.com\]\(https://puresolutions.com\)](https://puresolutions.com)

CONTACT INFORMATION

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